United Nations E/AC.51/2001/L.6/Add.16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
5 July 2001

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June-6 July 2001
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 14. Crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 13th meeting, on 19 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Centre for International Crime Prevention. The importance of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme was stressed.

4. Satisfaction was expressed that activities related to the elaboration of an international legal instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives and of a United Nations convention against corruption were indicated as being subject to a decision of the General Assembly.

5. Support was expressed for the overall objectives of the Centre and for activities related to transnational organized crime. Great appreciation was expressed

01-44159 (E) 050701

for the excellent work and guidance provided by the dedicated staff of the Centre, which had led to the adoption of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. Questions were raised concerning preparatory work for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in the light of the uncertainties as to when the Conference would be convened. It was stressed that follow-up work on the Convention should be a priority area in the programme of work of the Centre. Staff of the Secretariat working in this area should be strengthened.

6. Strong support was expressed for the work of the Centre on three global programmes: transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, and corruption. A view was expressed that, considering its limited resources, the Centre must focus its efforts. Therefore, activities related to cybercrime issues and expanded work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch were not supported. Another view was expressed in support of the additional resources proposed for cybercrime issues and for the reform of criminal justice systems.

7. Views were also expressed that the programme of work did not reflect a balanced approach between combating international crime threats and promoting fair and efficient criminal justice systems. This was a particular concern as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had decided at its tenth session to adopt "Reform of the criminal justice system" as the theme for the eleventh session of the Commission. Satisfaction was expressed with the good progress achieved towards the elaboration of a convention against corruption, since corruption was an impediment to social and economic development.

8. A view was expressed that the text of the section gave excessive attention to activities related to transnational organized crime over activities on crime prevention and criminal justice, which were the primary mandates of the Programme. It was recalled that the Centre for International Crime Prevention had given assurances to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that the programme of work would be revised in the future to take into account the resolutions of the Commission and other relevant bodies. In that sense, it was stressed that it was necessary to prepare all the reports requested by the Commission, inter alia, the reports on the campaign to eradicate the illicit traffic of protected species of wild flora and fauna, on the illicit access to genetic resources, on support to Governments requesting technical assistance to combat illicit funds transfers and the repatriation of such funds.

9. Questions were raised concerning the mandates for activities related to terrorism and for monitoring criteria to assess the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

10. A view was expressed that there was no definition of terrorism. Queries were raised about the Programme's activities to combat terrorism in all its aspects, including terrorism by States.

11. It was observed that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement had not been provided in the areas of economic and financial crime. Support was expressed for expected accomplishments related to gender mainstreaming, although the view was also expressed that the related indicator of achievement could be better defined.

12. Lack of elaboration on the synergy with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme was observed.

13. Concern was expressed regarding the adequacy of resources. Questions were raised concerning the use of extrabudgetary resources and support was expressed for the proposed 10.2 per cent increase in regular budget resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Table 14.5

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with paragraph 12.7 (b) of programme 12 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] as follows:

> **"The expansion of global knowledge of and expertise to deal with crime problems such as those posed by transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, economic and financial crime, including money-laundering, corruption, illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to promote fair and efficient criminal justice systems;"**

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with paragraph 12.8 (b) of programme 12 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] as follows:

> **"Awareness of best practices and information disseminated, research undertaken and new techniques developed and shared among Member States to respond to crime problems as well as to promote fair and efficient criminal justice systems;"**

In indicator of achievement (c) (i), replace the words "transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations" with the words "crime problems";

In indicator of achievement (c) (ii), replace the words "transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations" with the words "crime problem";

Paragraph 14.18 (a)

Replace the words "Readiness of Governments to ratify" with the words "Cooperation of Member States in ratifying";

Paragraph 14.18 (b)

Delete the words "including from sensitive government data sources".

Paragraph 14.19 (a)

Add a new subparagraph (vi), reading:

"(vi) Ad Hoc Committee for the negotiation of a legal instrument against corruption

a. Substantive servicing of meetings. Six sessions of two weeks' duration (120 meetings);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Six reports to the Ad Hoc Committee, including, inter alia, annotated agenda with transmission of draft text, contributions and proposals by States; six reports on each session of the Ad Hoc Committee."

Paragraph 14.19 (a) (v)

The subparagraph should read:

"(v) Ad hoc expert groups (RB/XB): Four regional expert group meetings on technical issues of common regional concern on the ratification and/or implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols; one expert group meeting each on: the criminal misuse of information technologies; best practices to combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, with attention given to the gender dimensions; best practices in combating corruption, with attention given to the gender dimensions; hostage situations and rescue operations; recognizing early warning signals of terrorist escalation; and legal approaches to combating terrorism;"

Paragraph 14.19 (d) (ii)

Delete the subparagraph.

15. The Committee recommended the strengthening of the Secretariat of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, including the field offices of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, so as to accomplish the tasks related to crime prevention and criminal justice and transnational organized crime through, inter alia, the full implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and of the Board of Auditors concerning the management and implementation of the Centre's programme.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).